

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-01

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: VIETNAM

FOLLOWING EDITORIAL FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW MAY, TITLED "THE  
DREAM IS ENDED":

QUOTE

1. BEFORE AMERICA LOST ITS INNOCENCE, IT SAW ITSELF AS THE NEW WORLD,

AS A "MELTING-POT" HAD ACHIEVED THE MOST ENVIABLE FORM OF HUMAN SOCIETY.

ENSHRINED IN ITS CONSTITUTION WERE THE IDEALS OF A DYNAMIC COUNTRY WHICH

HAD FOUGHT THE FIRST MODERN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE, WHICH HAD BECOME THE  
GLOBAL CHAMPION OF DEMOCRACY, BASED ON THE PROPOSITION THAT ALL MEN WERE

CREATED EQUAL AND THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE OF, BY AND FOR THE PEOPLE.

THE STINK OF WATERGATE AND THE NOW-HUMILIATING DEBACLE IN INDOCHINA HAVE

NOT ONLY FINALLY DESTROYED MUCH OF THE AMERICANS' OWN IDEALISTIC  
VIEW OF THEMSELVES, BUT HAVE EXPOSED THE BASIC FALLACY AT THE ROOT  
OF THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD.

2. THE VISION WAS STILL PRETTY WELL INTACT DURING WORLD WAR II AND  
THE DAYS OF THE MARSHALL PLAN, WHICH RESCUED WESTERN EUROPE.  
BUT, TRAGICALLY, THAT APOGEE OF AMERICA'S GLOBAL ROLE CONFIRMED ITS  
POLICY-MAKERS IN THEIR DOOMED INSISTENCE ON SEEING THEIR COUNTRY  
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AS THE LEADER OF A CRUSADE AGAINST THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST

CONSPIRACY. THEY WOULD NOT ACCEPT THAT FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD, THEY DID NOT REPRESENT THE FORCES OF FREEDOM, BUT RATHER THE FORCES OF MAMMON. AMERICA, IF IT WAS TO BE ENVIED AND EMULATED, WAS SEEN AS A SYSTEM OFFERING THE PROMISE OF WEALTH AND OF A GENERAL LEVEL OF PROSPERITY WHICH COULD ONLY BE ACHIEVED UNDER A CAPITALIST SYSTEM. BUT IT CHOSE TO IGNORE AND TO VACATE ITS REAL POSITION OF STRENGTH, ELECTING INSTEAD TO GO TO BATTLE FOR THE NEGATIVE CAUSE OF ANTI-COMMUNISM.

3. THE INEVITABLE RESULT WAS TO ALLOW THE "ENEMY" TO SEIZE UPON AND EXPLOIT THE STRONGEST FORCE WHICH WAS GALVANISING SOCIETIES IN THE POST-WAR, POST-COLONIAL YEARS -- THE FORCE OF NATIONALISM. WASHINGTON ENSURED ITS EVENTUAL DEFEAT IN INDOCHINA BY TAKING OVER THE COLONIAL WAR THE FRENCH HAD LOST IN 1954. JOHN FOSTER DULLES PROVIDED THE INSANE IDEOLOGY FOR THE CRUSADE, AND SO HANDED THE REAL POLICY-MAKING POWERS OVER TO THE MEN WHO RAN THE MILITARY MACHINE IN THE PENTAGON. THE GENERALS CHOSE AMERICA'S ALLIES, WITH THE UNSURPRISING RESULT THAT THE U.S. (STILL SEEING ITSELF AS THE CHAMPION OF LIBERTY) FOUND ITSELF PROPPING UP REGIMES RUN BY CORRUPT DICTATORS AND ALLIED WITH THE LOCAL REACTIONARIES WHO WANTED AT ALL COSTS TO PREVENT GOVERNMENT OF THEIR PEOPLE BY THEIR PEOPLE AND FOR THEIR PEOPLE. AND ALTHOUGH AMERICAN BLOOD AND DOLLARS WERE SUPPORTING UNREPRESENTATIVE PUPPETS, THOSE PUPPETS WERE NEVERTHELESS UNRESPONSIVE TO PRESSURE TO DEMOCRATISE THEIR REGIMES AND THUS GAIN SOME CREDIBILITY FOR THEIR CLAIMS TO BE PART OF THE "FREE WORLD." EVERY CRUSADER BELIEVES THAT HE IS FIGHTING A JUST WAR, AND THE AMERICANS, BLINKERED BY THEIR OWN POWER AND TECHNOLOGICAL EXPERTISE, ALSO BELIEVED THAT THEY COULD RUN THE SHOW BETTER THAN THEIR LOCAL CHAMPIONS, WHO THEREUPON PROVED EXPENDABLE.

4. AND SO, MOUTHING AN IRRELEVANT IDEOLOGY, WIELDING AN IRRELEVANT TECHNOLOGY AND SUPPORTING IRRELEVANT DICTATORS, THE AMERICANS

FOUND THEMSELVES TRYING VAINLY TO WIN HEARTS AND MINDS AND TO PERSUADE

BATTERED, CYNICAL, OPPRESSED AND EXPLOITED POPULATIONS THAT THE WAR AGAINST COMMUNISM WAS A WAR FOR FREEDOM, INDEPENDENCE AND A NATIONAL IDENTITY.

5. THE ENORMITY OF THE AMERICAN MISTAKES IN INDOCHINA WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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GRAPHICALLY ILLUSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT WHEN THE CRUNCH CAME, MILLIONS OF REFUGEES STILL FLED SOUTH IN A PATHETIC ATTEMPT TO AVOID BEING ENGULFED BY THE "LIBERATION" FORCE, TO HAVE BEEN DEFEATED, ALTHOUGH IN THE LAST RESORT A CRUMBLING SAIGON STILL COMMANDED THE REFUGEES' FINAL CHOICE, PROVES BEYOND ANY QUESTION THE STUPIDITY WITH WHICH THE WAR HAD BEEN WAGED. THE SAD FACT IS THE WAR WAS NOT FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM BUT FOR NATIONALISM. DEPRESSINGLY FEW OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD WHICH ARE NO LONGER CLIENT STATES

HAVE CHOSEN TO SET UP DEMOCRACIES, ALONG EITHER WESTERN OR LOCAL LINES. THE AMERICANS DUMPED DIEM BECAUSE HE WAS NO DEMOCRAT, ONLY TO FIND THAT THEY HAVE CONNIVED IN THE DEATH OF A MAN WHO DID AT LEAST HAVE SOME CLAIM TO BE FIRST AND FOREMOST A NATIONALIST -- THE VERY REASON FOR HIS UNRESPONSIVENESS TO AMERICAN PRESSURES.

6. WHAT HAPPENS TO A COUNTRY WHICH HAS EXPENDED SO MUCH MONEY AND BLOOD IN PURSUIT OF IDEALS NOW PROVEN ILLUSORY, AND WHICH WILL BE HAUNTED FOR MANY YEARS TO COME BY THE PROMISES IT HAS BROKEN? A FEW OSTRICHES MAY BURY THEIR HEADS IN THE SAND OF NOSTALGIA, WISTFULLY RECALLING THE DAYS OF HARRY TRUMAN WHEN AMERICA WAS GOVERNED BY AN HONEST MAN WHO HAD THE POWER TO STICK TO HIS WORD. OTHERS MAY ENGAGE IN A BITTER, SELF-DESTRUCTIVE DEBATE ALONG MCCARTHYIST LINES, APPORTIONING BLAME ON THOSE WHO "LOST INDOCHINA," AS ONCE SOME WERE MADE SCAPEGOATS FOR HAVING "LOST CHINA." SOME WILL DEMAND THAT AMERICA WASH ITS HANDS OF ANY FURTHER DISILLUSIONING COMMITMENTS, TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD AND RETREAT INTO A SELF-SUFFICIENT CITADEL.

7. THE SENSIBLE ONES WILL SIMPLY SEE DEFEAT IN INDOCHINA AS THE INEVITABLE END TO AN OUTDATED CRUSADE, AND PROOF THAT A WAY OF LIFE CANNOT BE EXPORTED. THEY WILL REALISE THAT THE WORLD STILL NEEDS AMERICA AS A SOURCE OF STRENGTH FOR THOSE WHO WISH TO WIN OR TO PRESERVE THEIR OWN INDEPENDENCE, AS A SUPPORT FOR THE FORCES OF NATIONALISM, AS A SOURCE OF CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY, AND AS A MARKET. UNQUOTE. IZENBERG

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